

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

Indiana

Empowering the BRFSS to Help Track Improvement

: “The support from the PHBGF for our BRFSS survey provided the improved prevalence so needed by our program areas and partners to measure improvement.”

Linda Sternnock, BRFSS Director/Coordinator
Indiana State Department of Health

Public Health Problem (Issue)

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey is a state-based system of telephone health surveys that collects information on preventive health practices, select chronic conditions, and health risk behaviors of adults ages 18 years and older. The BRFSS is a major source of state-level data for agency programs working to improve modifiable risk factors and decrease prevalence of chronic conditions. CDC is a major source of funding to implement the survey; however, funding levels are not consistent from year to year and there is not a line item for the BRFSS within CDC. While funding from CDC was adequate, additional funding was needed to increase the number of surveys completed. A larger number of surveys results in improved data, especially when program areas are trying to measure a reduction in risk factors (such as smoking) or an increase in preventive measures (such as colorectal cancer screening), since the BRFSS provides much of the information needed to measure improvement.

Taking Action (Intervention)

Through funding from the PHSBGF in 2016, almost 800 additional surveys were completed for the Indiana BRFSS. These additional surveys will result in improved prevalence, especially by race/ethnicity and younger age groups. The additional surveys will also provide small confidence intervals, which is important when measuring change in prevalence year to year.

Impact

Many programs within the Indiana State Department of Health, as well as partners outside our organization, rely on data from the BRFSS to measure improvement in the health of our adults. The larger sample size for our BRFSS from PHBGF funding will mean better data for measuring change in 2016.

Footnotes

2016 Indiana State Department of Health contract amendment with Clearwater Research, Inc.

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Healthy People Objective
Epidemiology Services

PHHS Block Grant Funding
100% - Total source of funding

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**For more information on the
PHHS Block Grant, go to**
www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant

**For more information on
Healthy People, go to** www.healthypeople.gov

PHHS Block Grant Supports
Indiana Healthy People Priorities

The PHHS Block Grant provides flexible funding that states can use to prevent and control chronic diseases, respond quickly to outbreaks of infections and waterborne diseases, and address their specific public health needs. States can align their programs with health objectives from [Healthy People](#).

Indiana uses its funds to address 14 health objective priorities, including

- Cardiovascular Health.
- Community Water Fluoridation.
- Accredited Public Health Agencies.
- Public Health Agency Quality Improvement Program.
- Health Improvement Plans.

For a complete list of funded health objectives, go to
<http://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/stateHPprior.htm>.